

MDHHS 101

WORKING WITH THE MDHHS LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS TEAM

BACKGROUND

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) was created in 2015 as a result of the merger of the former Department of Human Services and Department of Community Health. MDHHS addresses issues related to public assistance (including Medicaid, FIP, FAP, SER, SDA), aging and adult services, public health, behavioral health, state psychiatric hospitals, child support enforcement, foster care and adoption, and field operations among others. The department employs nearly 15,000 employees statewide and has a \$29 billion budget with nearly 70% of that coming from federal sources.

LEGISLATIVE QUESTIONS/ISSUES

The MDHHS Legislative Affairs office is responsible for managing and leading the department's legislative priorities and working with legislative offices on the development of legislation that may impact MDHHS. We are always happy to discuss legislation that may be of interest to you and work with our subject matter experts to provide additional information and insights. If you are interested in pursuing legislation, please reach out to Ramiro Galván, Director of Legislative Affairs, at GalvanR@michigan.gov or 517-599-9837.

CONSTITUENT CASEWORK

All case work and inquiries should be emailed to MDHHS-legislative@michigan.gov. Your email should identify which legislative office it comes from and contain basic information about the case. We will respond as soon as possible, typically within less than a week after receiving your email. However, if the case is urgent, please make sure to mark the email itself with high importance. Please note that we do not directly respond to constituents, unless it is deemed an emergency situation.

Constituent inquiries **MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY COMPLETED RELEASE FORMS**. If the person filling out the form for your constituent is their legal guardian or power of attorney, they must provide you with guardianship papers or an executed power of attorney document. Please have your constituents send their paperwork directly to you. Once you have received your constituent's documents, please scan all pages of the forms and any additional relevant information into a single document and include that document as an attachment to your email.

WHAT WE CANNOT DO

MDHHS cannot release any information on constituent case work to your office without properly executed release forms. We will only speak directly to constituents for you in very **EXTREME** emergency situations. MDHHS is prohibited by state law from releasing **ANY** information to a third party on:

- Adoption Cases
- Child Protective Services Cases
- Child Support Cases
- Foster Care

If you have a very urgent case or questions about casework that we are working on with you, please feel free to call Lorna Elliott-Egan, Constituent & Tribal Services Manager, at 517-512-4146 for assistance.

ADDITIONAL TIPS

- We encourage legislators to form relationships with district directors, however, all constituent cases and development of proposed legislation should be handled by MDHHS Legislative Affairs.
- Please do not contact MDHHS staff outside of the legislative team directly. This is important in assuring questions and issues are handled properly. MDHHS staff have been informed that if they do receive any correspondence from legislative offices to send it to MDHHS Legislative Affairs.
- Please be patient as some issues and constituent cases may require significant amounts of research. We are always happy to provide status updates.
- The best and most efficient way to reach us is through email.

SCHEDULING

To schedule meetings with Ramiro Galván, please contact Jackie McKee at Mckeej1@michigan.gov.